

THE PAINTED LADY IN SOUTH WALES IN MARCH 1977. — On March 4th, at 3.15 p.m., I noticed here in full sunlight what I thought at first was a dead leaf fluttering close to the south-east facing outside wall of the courtyard. Then I realised it was a butterfly too large and light-coloured for a Small Tortoiseshell, but surely not *C. cardui*! Anyway, it soon settled in a crevice in the stonework and closed its wings before I could identify it. However, I managed to get it into a jam jar, and then of course I had no doubt as to its identity, it was indeed *cardui*. After I let it go, it settled and spread its wings, a beautiful specimen in perfect condition, and eventually flew off over the house and out of sight.

Until now, the earliest *cardui* I had seen was one in a lane above Newlyn, Cornwall, on 11th March in the 1930's—I think in 1936—which was settled on a grass bank. There, it might I suppose, have been a very early migrant. In the recent case, however, the fact that the butterfly sought a dark crevice, closed its wings and stayed motionless and apparently dormant till it was disturbed about five minutes later rather points, I would think, to a hibernator tempted out by the warm sun. The day was sunny and warm, but only where sheltered from a blustering W.N.W. wind. I may mention that last summer we had rather more Painted Ladies here than usual, though not really plentiful as were the Red Admirals. — J. P. SANKEY-BARKER, Plas Llangattock, Crickhowell, Breconshire. [Unlike the Tortoiseshells, the Peacock and very occasionally the Red Admiral, the Painted Lady as far as is known, does not hibernate. — Editor.]

THE PAINTED LADY (*CYNTHIA CARDUI* L.) IN CORNWALL IN MARCH. — We saw a Painted Lady sunbathing and in flight at Treveal, nr. St. Ives, Cornwall (SW 474401) on 2nd March. — J. B. and S. BOTTOMLEY, Venwyn Cottage, Hellesveor Place, St. Ives, Cornwall, TR26 3AQ, 3.iii.1977.

THE PAINTED LADY IN HAMPSHIRE IN EARLY MARCH 1977. — On March 4th I saw a Painted Lady (*Cynthia cardui* L.) fly up and settle on the church wall at Buriton, near Petersfield. The weather was sunny and the insect remained for a short time with its wings open. — Miss JOSEPHINE A. PLEASANT, The Pightle, Mill Lane, Lindford, Borden, Hants.

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